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Variations in plumage of male and female White-crowned Manakins (*Pipra pipra*)

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It is now known that adult females of the Golden-headed Manakin (*Pipra erythrocephala*) (Snow, 1962) and the Crimson-hooded Manakin (*Pipra aureola*) (Haverschmidt, 1965) sometimes have feathers characteristic of the male plumage.

This also applies for the White-crowned Manakin (*Pipra pipra*). The male of this species is glossy black all over except on the crown and the nape which are glossy white, while the female has dark olive green upperparts, except the upper head which is slate grey, while the underparts are dark greyish with a green tinge. The juvenile male is like the female.

When in the forest near Phedra (Surinam) on 6th April 1961 a small bird suddenly flew from the undergrowth. My first impression was that I had flushed it from its nest, but a prolonged search failed to locate it. I collected the bird that proved to be a *Pipra pipra* in the green plumage of the female, but with a number of black feathers in the coverts of the right wing and a black secondary in the right wing. At first glance I took it for a male in intermediate plumage and—as the male does not take part in the nest life—my presumption that I had flushed it from its nest seemed unjustified. When afterwards making a specimen of it I established to my surprise that it was a female with a well developed ovary.

As I reported previously (Haverschmidt, 1958) the male of *Pipra pipra* may be sexually mature before it has attained the full male plumage. Apart from the specimen mentioned in my earlier note I collected on 9th October 1960 at Zanderij (Surinam) a specimen in the green plumage of the female without any trace of the male's dress and another one near Phedra on 28th March 1965 in the female's plumage but with a few white feathers on the crown and a few black feathers on the chin and throat. Both birds had greatly enlarged testes.

Thus in *Pipra pipra* males in juvenile and intermediate plumage cannot be separated from adult females on the basis of plumage.

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